

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 25-28, 30-31, and 33-50 are pending in the application. Claims 25, 38, 44, and 47 are independent.

Claims 25, 28, 44, 45, and 47 have been amended for clarity and to correct typographical errors noted therein, and not for any reason related to any statutory requirement for patentability.

Claim 45 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, written description requirement, for the reasons discussed on page 2 of the Office Action. Applicant respectfully traverse this rejection on the ground that the person of ordinary skill in the art would readily apprehend that Applicant was in possession of the claimed invention as of the application filing date. In particular, the Claim 45 terms "guidewire branch" and "inflation branch" are very well known to those of skill in this art, and are clearly depicted in the drawings. In fact a search of the USPTO patent database lists 28 hits for "guidewire branch" and 13 hits for "inflation branch." Obviously, persons of skill in this art readily apprehend what the inventor invented with respect to the claimed "guidewire branch" and "inflation branch."

Claims 25-28, 30-31, and 33-50 were rejected as being unpatentable over Gharibadeh, Schiffer, and Horzewski, and Barry, for the reasons noted at pages 2-5 of the Office Action. Applicant respectfully traverses all art rejections.

Independent Claim 25 recites a novel combination of structure and/or function whereby the adapter slit is straight from a proximal end of the catheter to a proximal end of the

adapter. Likewise, independent Claim 38 recites a novel combination of structure and/or function whereby the adapter comprises a straight slit throughout the entire length of the adapter from a proximal end of the catheter to a proximal end of the adapter. Also, independent Claim 47 recites a novel combination of structure and/or function whereby the adapter slit comprises a straight slit from a proximal end of the catheter to a proximal end of the adapter. These features are clearly depicted in the embodiment of Fig. 4, slit 135a. In contrast, in Gharibadeh, the adaptor slit clearly has a dog-leg like angle at the proximal end of the adaptor, see the left-hand portion of Fig. 2. Accordingly, the salient claimed features of Claims 25, 38, and 47 are nowhere disclosed or suggested by the cited art, including Gharibadeh.

Independent Claim 44 recites a novel combination of structure and/or function whereby the third lumen has a stiffening member disposed in at least a portion thereof. The Office Action states that Gharibadeh's guidewire is the claimed stiffening member. However, before Claim 44 claims the "stiffening member", it clearly recites the guidewire. Accordingly, the tenets of claim construction prevent the claimed stiffening member from being read on Gharibadeh's guidewire. To further clarify the claimed structure, Claim 44 has been amended to recite that the stiffening member is a non-guidewire.

In view of the above, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in
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continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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